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11 April 1958

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN



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DAILY BRIEF

I. THE COMMUNIST BLOC

no USSR - Summit tactics: On 9 April Deputy Foreign Minister Kuznetsov gave Ambassador Thompson an official reply to the 31 March Western proposals, but almost immediately withdrew it following a sudden telephone call. The note appeared to propose that the ambassadors in Moscow discuss only such arrangements for a foreign ministers' meeting as time, place, and composition. The confusion may have been caused by the fact that Premier Khrushchev was to return to Moscow the next day. Kuznetsov reiterated orally that the USSR thought the West wanted preliminary negotiations in order to reach an impasse and prevent a summit conference, while Moscow thought a summit meeting would be useful whether or not it could reach decisions. [REDACTED]

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no Hungary - USSR: The cold reception accorded Khrushchev on his Hungarian visit must have shattered his belief that the scars of the 1956 Soviet intervention could be removed by his personal magnetism. He had earlier told UN Secretary General Hammarskjold that he felt confident his trip would show he was not unpopular in Hungary. The alternately threatening and defensive tone of his 8 and 9 April speeches contrasts with his initial approach, which was more temperate and controlled, and suggests that the indifference of the Hungarians was an important factor in his loss of temper. [REDACTED]

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Soviet flyby practice: The Soviet Air Force has started practice flights over Moscow in preparation for the flyby which is a feature of the Soviet May Day parade in Red Square. So far only known types of Soviet fighter and bomber aircraft have been observed. At least seven canvas-covered missiles have been noted on trailers in Moscow, suggesting that a missile display--such as occurred in Moscow last November--probably will be repeated.



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II. ASIA-AFRICA

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Japan - Taiwan: Taipei has accepted Japanese assurances that any Chinese Communist trade delegation in Tokyo will not receive official status or privileges or be formally granted the right to fly Peiping's flag. The Japanese Government, however, cannot legally prevent the flying of the flag when the Peiping mission opens. The Nationalists, meanwhile, have announced that trade relations between Japan and Taiwan will soon return to normal.

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Japan - South Korea: The Japanese Foreign Ministry has stated that formal talks for an over-all settlement with South Korea are "practically certain" to open on 15 April. Agreement to convene the conference still depends on South Korea's promise to repatriate Japanese fishermen, an action which Seoul has indicated it will undertake. Seoul, however, will undoubtedly continue to hold some Japanese as hostages, until the issue of the return of Korean detainees in Japan to North Korea is settled. This will complicate negotiations, which are likely to be difficult in any case.

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III. THE WEST

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France-Tunisia: Gaillard appears determined to reject the US-UK good offices proposals for reopening French-Tunisian negotiations because of Bourguiba's refusal to accept neutral supervision of both sides of the Algerian-Tunisian border. Gaillard regards this proposal as politically unacceptable in France, and his view will probably be confirmed by the emergency session of the Council of Ministers on 11 April. France may then initiate a new appeal to the UN Security Council to outmaneuver Bourguiba, who intends to raise the whole North African problem--including Algeria--for UN review. [REDACTED]

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Cuba: Despite its failure in Havana, the Castro strike attempt seems to be partially effective in Santiago and to have spread to other towns in Oriente Province as well as to Camaguey Province. Thus limited, however, it poses no threat to Batista's control at this time. [REDACTED]

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Rift Between Taipei and Tokyo Temporarily Eased

The rift between Japan and Nationalist China over the right of the proposed Peiping trade delegation to fly the Chinese Communist flag in Tokyo has been settled for the moment. A Chinese Nationalist communiqué cites Japanese assurances that any Chinese Communist trade agency established in Tokyo will be denied official status and privileges, and that Japan "will not recognize the right of the Chinese Communists to fly their flag." The communiqué expresses Taipei's belief that Tokyo will "in time give practical expression" to these assurances.

The Nationalists have also announced that trade relations between the two countries--restricted by the Nationalists on 18 March when trade contracts with Japanese suppliers were suspended--will return to normal on 10 April when the Bank of Taiwan resumes the issuance of letters of credit to local merchants for the purchase of Japanese goods. Negotiations for a trade agreement probably will also be resumed.

While Tokyo maintains that it has no legal basis to prevent the flying of foreign flags, it seems quite unlikely that Taipei has surrendered on this point. Taipei's acquiescence could be the result of some confidential understanding that Japan will find a means to take the necessary action.

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Japan and South Korea Prepared to Resume Formal
Negotiations

The South Korean vice foreign minister told an official of the American Embassy on 9 April that his government can give Japanese Prime Minister Kishi private assurances on the repatriation of Japanese fishermen detained at Pusan which will open the way for talks to normalize relations. The Japanese Foreign Ministry has indicated that details for the mutual release of detainees are still under discussion, but that negotiations are "practically certain" to open on 15 April.

Japanese Foreign Minister Fujiyama believes that Seoul might return about 300 of 422 detained fishermen, holding the remainder as hostages to assure the return to South Korea of some 90 Koreans in Japan who have requested repatriation to Pyongyang. The Japanese Government apparently is willing to accept such an arrangement in order to show some progress in negotiations prior to the national election campaign expected in May.

Plans to open the negotiations on 1 March broke down when Seoul refused to continue the repatriation of fishermen unless Japan guaranteed to repatriate all Korean illegal residents to South Korea including the 90 desiring to go to North Korea. Lack of agreement on the disposition of the 90 probably will be a serious obstacle in the forthcoming discussions.

Should this hurdle be overcome, the negotiations may lead to an early agreement on such outstanding issues as property claims, but a compromise on the controversial Rhee line which bans Japanese fishing in waters as much as 60 miles from the Korean coast will probably prove more difficult.

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III. THE WEST

France Uncompromising on Tunisian Border Supervision

French Premier Gaillard and Foreign Minister Pineau told the US-UK good offices mission on 9 April that they doubt their government could accept the mission's proposals of 15 March on reopening French-Tunisian negotiations, because of Tunisian President Bourguiba's unwillingness to agree to any provision for neutral supervision of both sides of the Algerian border. Gaillard, who regards the proposals as politically unacceptable in France, probably can expect the 11 April emergency session of the French Council of Ministers to back his adamant position. Pineau, meanwhile, has already told the National Assembly Foreign Affairs Committee that the good offices mission has failed.

Both Gaillard and Pineau showed interest in a suggestion by British Ambassador Jebb that France couple assent to the Tunisian minimum conditions with a proposal to the UN Security Council to set up a border commission on both sides of the frontier. Since such a move would probably encounter rightist opposition, however, France may prefer to renew its February appeal to the UN Security Council in an effort to outmaneuver Bourguiba. The Tunisian President intends not only to press his own February complaint against France in the Security Council but also to open up the question of Algeria and the entire North African problem for UN review.

France will not hesitate to use its veto power if the Security Council moves to include Algeria in its discussion following the report of the good offices mission. Such a step would almost certainly lead to a strong drive by the Arab-Asian bloc for a special session of the General Assembly.

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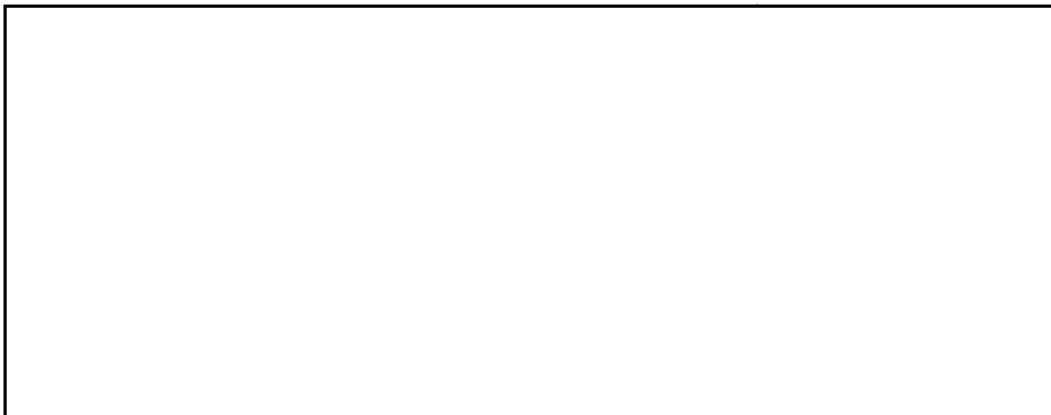
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